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MATWATCH

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STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
 By STEVE BEVERLY
 MATWATCH Editor

A CHANCE FOR LANCE

Two weeks ago, I was having a dehumidifier brought into my office in the midst of record 84-degree heat. The last two things I would have forecast were snow in Alabama and Lance Russell being hired by the NWA.

Last Wednesday night at 9 p.m., a steady fall of snowflakes began outside our window. Twelve hours earlier, the star of Memphis TV wrestling for two decades had found a new home.

Lance signed to take over as host of NWA PRO WRESTLING and WORLD WIDE WRESTLING, replacing the departed Tony Schiavone, in a deal bound to be hailed by viewers nationwide.

To say that such a move is way, way overdue is the understatement of the decade. For several years, the talented Russell has ridden the train of "almost but not quite," in much the same fashion as Sam Snead failing to win the U.S. Open in a storied career or the great Andy Griffith never winning an Emmy.

In 1984, when the now-defunct PRO WRESTLING USA tour taped a series in Memphis, Lance was passed over as a commentator. Last fall, when ESPN and the AWA basically turned their show over to the CWA and World Class with tapings in Jarrett Promotions cities, we never heard word one from Russell on the total sports network. Even the thin-wearing Frank Dusek turned a color stint...but no Lance.

I was first turned on to Lance Russell's ability to command a wrestling show in 1982 when, while living in Mississippi, I was treated to the building feud between Jerry Lawler and comedian Andy Kaufman. The tension Russell was able to build over a series of weeks was phenomenal. I've seen him double me over with laughter when a certain Japanese manager threatened him and Lance would retort, "I'll sue you, Tojo, if you touch ME with that kendo stick." I saw his excellent commentary on the Lawler AWA title victory over Curt Hennig last spring, a victory which would have been incomplete without the affable Russell.

Before we even deal with Lance's NWA duties, have you even considered what this move means to the WMC and syndicated Memphis show? For 20-plus years, Lance Russell has been Memphis wrestling in the same fashion that Gordon Solie was Florida wrestling for 37 years. The stars may have drifted in and out but Lance was the dependable face one could count on to carry you through the weekly wars. Russell could probably have had a political career in Memphis, so popular is he. The story of his departure was page one news in the MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL-APPEAL.



The blow to the Jarrett organization has to be severe. Who could replace Lance on those Saturday mornings in Tennessee? Aside from the obvious answer of no one, what about his sidekick, Dave Brown? Brown, a popular weathercaster on WMC, told the Memphis paper he isn't interested in continuing without Russell.

Jarrett official Randy Hales is not a broadcaster and the pressure will be so intense now on Lawler to carry the promotion that The King, himself an excellent communicator, would be an unwise choice.

Marc Lowrance could be brought in from Jarrett's World Class group and, frankly, my buddy Charlie Platt--who hasn't been called by Jarrett at this writing and who is not seeking new work---would fit the personality of the Memphis show beautifully. But Jerry Jarrett is left with a vital decision in the coming weeks as the Memphis fans will be eyeing the new choice with a critical eye.

As for the Turner/NWA fortunes, in my view the group could not have done itself any prouder. Jim Herd did not hire an office crony or a relative of an employee. He signed the best possible emcee of those available. Further, I believe the NWA comes out even better than it was before the recent Schiavone defection.

I respect the tremendous strides Tony has made in the last year. But with Russell, Turner has a man with broader experience and a tremendous skill in "selling" angles and personalities far beyond Schiavone's range. Not just coincidentally, the NWA now has the 1988 MATWATCH Announcer of the Year (Jim Ross) and runner-up in our readers' poll as its top voices. Not bad company.

A few questions were raised about whether Lance could work the same magic in an arena show as he has in that little WMC studio for two decades. That can be determined simply by asking those who know him. And the answer is an unwavering yes.

Dan Wolf of FNN/SCORE, who did several arena matches for cable with Russell last year, says, "Lance is the best. I can't tell you how much I learned from him in those matches from the Mid-South Coliseum."

As a personal aside, while I feel pain for Jarrett's loss, I'm overjoyed that one of the good eggs in this profession is finally being recognized for the quality he has presented for years. And if the talent roster and presentation of the new NWA eventually begins to jell, Lance Russell is going to make two shows once again awfully fun to watch.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES**PIPER SIGNS FOR WRESTLEMANIA V SLOT;
FNN/SCORE SHOW'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN**

STAMFORD, CT. - Roddy Piper has agreed to a one-shot return to the WWF on the April 2 WRESTLEMANIA V card from Atlantic City.

Piper, who shot to national fame from 1984-87 in the WWF after classic appearances on WTBS and Mid-Atlantic shows in the early '80s, will reportedly be paid \$50,000 for the spot.

NWA officials had also been negotiating with Piper and talks for a future role with the Turner group are not considered dead. NWA executive vice president Jim Herd would not comment on the situation. Herd had a meeting with Piper and his agent, David Wolff, in New York Monday but reached no agreement.

In limbo is the planned PIPER'S PIT series for FNN/SCORE, scheduled for March 19 with Piper and Lee Marshall. SCORE's Dan Wolf says he's been told nothing to indicate the talk-variety show will not proceed but expects to have firm word this week.

**PEDICINO SIGNS TO JOIN TBS/NWA;
PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK TO CONTINUE**

ATLANTA - Veteran wrestling analyst Joe Pedicino has signed to join the TBS/NWA team. The host of PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK since 1985 agreed to terms Wednesday.

Pedicino, who also hosts Atlanta station WVEU's SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING marathon block Saturday nights, will be an on-air "wrestling journalist," following events of the NWA in a similar fashion to his PWTW role. He'll also be involved in special projects for the Turner wrestling group.

PWTW will continue with Boni Blackstone and a new male co-host to be named in the coming weeks. Pedicino will have his final SUPERSTARS broadcast March 18 and a series of on-air tryouts will preclude the naming of his successor.

Pedicino told MATWATCH, "I consider this a tremendous opportunity and I look forward to doing some interesting things with the NWA."

**DEATH CLAIMS MILDRED BURKE, LADIES' CHAMPION,
AND FORMER "IVAN THE TERRIBLE"**

Two of wrestling's classic stars passed away last week after extended illnesses.

Former ladies' champion Mildred Burke died at the age of 73. Burke and The Fabulous Moolah battled over the women's title in the 1940s and 1950s. Burke later retired to operate a wrestling school for female competitors.

John Robert Shaw, the former Ivan Bulba (a/k/a Ivan the Terrible) died Feb. 19 in Texas after a bout with cancer. He was 65. An ex-police officer, Shaw was noted for wrestling bears and later became known as one of the Kowalski Brothers.

COMINGS & GOINGS

PIPER'S OWN PIT: Lots of anger directed at Roddy's manager, David Wolff. The NWA had a verbal agreement with Piper for April 2, then Wolff called the Atlanta office to say the WWF deal had been made but he wanted to talk about a one-year deal. Officials at FNN/SCORE are up in arms because their planned PIPER'S PIT pilot for March 19 is now all but dead.

MORE VINCEISMS: Page one stories all over the Seattle papers on a similar Vince "we're not real" maneuver with the Washington legislature. In one report, Piper blasted the very company who will employ him April 2. Money does talk.

ANOTHER WISH: Another non-WWF insider says Vince ought to be named a financier for the writing of THE SATANIC VERSES, so the Ayatollah will put McMahon on his hit list, too.

THE MOVIES: Vince's movie, NO HOLDS BARRED, has had a preview screening before distributors in L.A. this week. So has THUNDERGROUND, the new Jesse Ventura flick.

IRONED OUT: The deal bringing the Iron Sheik to the NWA was closed Wednesday and he'll supposedly feud with Vincent Young or possibly a newcomer. But a lot of insiders feel Sheik is another retread who won't draw money.

NO NBC: NBC will apparently now not tape the April 24 New Japan show with the Russians via pressure from Vince.

CWF DECISION: Two experienced bookers are now in negotiation for the CWF job and it won't be soon enough. Sources outside the promotion indicate one of the names is Bill Dundee.

PORLAND PIPELINE: The Don Owen show is actually becoming fun to watch again. John Nord did some terrific stuff in the last week and Scotty the Body is now in as a comic color man.

A.M. TALK: In answer to many, many questions, the TBS a.m. show won't stay at 7:05 a.m. long. Friday late night is a possibility but if that move is made, it will involve a significant format change to distinguish the show from the Saturday night offering.

CWF/MONTGOMERY: The next TV taping a week from Sunday features Black Bart vs. The Dog, Hunters vs. Furnas/Danny Davis, and Gordy vs. Prichard in a probable dark match.

WEF/SEATTLE: Titan drew about 6,200 to Seattle in a 14,000 capacity Friday night with Savage d. Bad News; Studd double DQ Akeem; Bushwackers d. Rougeaus; DiBiase d. Santana; Honky d. Bret Hart; Blazer d. Volkoff and Hennig drew with Hercules in what MATHATCHER Ed Varner called a horrible show.

WHAT KINDNESS: I wonder if the TBS people know that in Seattle, the local affiliate has been inserting spots for the WWF arena card where the CATCH THE PINFALLS slots are in the syndie shows. Talk about benevolence....

BRUNO'S BOY: David Sammartino in as a hardcore heel for SCW. He's bleached his hair and did a hot interview last week.

BLACKWELL'S BLOOPER: Jerry Blackwell had a spot inside the Atlanta SCW show for a local carpet dealer. Great spot: Jerry never told the name of the dealer, the business or where it's located. Must be a new trend.

HOMECOMING: Dusty's lineup for his March 11 HOMECOMING special in Tampa includes himself vs. Steelman for the PWF (Professional Wrestling Fed) title, The Von Erichs vs. The Star Riders, Al Perez vs. Mike Graham for the Fla. title and Dustin vs. Terry Funk.

HEELS AGAIN: Bam Bam Bigelow turned on Dusty in a Jacksonville match vs. Dick Slater & Steelman so the Bamer is a confirmed heel again.

NWC OUT: Our NWC reports may be out for TV TEMPO. NWEU in Atlanta and at least one other U.S. market has dropped the Caribbean show in protest over the renewed babyface push of Jose Gonzales. Even Brad & Bart Batten were seen on the latest show congratulating Gonzales in an angle involving Chicky Starr.

CHI-TOWN HEAT: Finally, some genuine heat broke out in the Chicago dressing room between Hawk and Steve Williams. Hawk was angry over being press-slammed by Doc and the two exchanged heated words.

IN AND OUT: Jack Victory will stay as an early-caller as Jack Victory. But Dave Sheldon as Russian Assassin I is gone. Dennis Condrey, naturally, won't be back. Condrey claims no one from the NWA office communicated with him about his future but officials say Dennis never tried to talk to them. The Fantastics are also apparently out until at least July, when they've been told another spot will be available. Apparently, they'll work Carolinas and Va. indies until then.

CHI - TOWN REVIEW

One generally sense when a classic is coming because of a feeling of heightened drama, an extra sense of glitz and a distinctive flavor to a presentation, be it pro wrestling or Shakespearean tragedy.

I've followed pro wrestling for 24 years. I saw the first Jack Brisco-Dory Funk Jr. one-hour draw. I saw those two go 90 minutes in a 2-out-of-3 fall match. I watched a Brisco-Tim Woods match at the Omni in 1973 for 32 of the best minutes I've ever seen. I once saw a phenomenal Lou Thesz-Don Curtis draw. I remember Flair-Steambat at the Meadowlands and Steamboat-Savage at WRESTLEMANIA III.

But I may have witnessed the finest 23 minutes of U.S. action in my life Feb. 20. Ricky Steamboat and Ric Flair knew the match could not just be good, otherwise critics would rule it a flop. It had to be greater than great.

What they gave us was an event that dramatically transcends what Vince McMahon is not discreetly trying to trash, pro wrestling. Steamboat-Flair was an event you'll tell your grandchildren about and, yes, Mr. Sims, I wish I had been on that front row with you, Dave & company.

Let me review the ups and downs of the TV coverage:

PLUS: Pinfalls in every match. I even felt okay about it, even though the finishes of Luger-Windham and Rotundo-Steiner were similar. As we stated last week, Luger & Windham put forth the surprise effort of the night and Lex has shown a penchant for performance on PPV night. Tommy Edwards kept his tight crowd shots to a minimum, though there were still too many. Interviews were held with most of the key competitors and the post-match celebration gave more of a sports-oriented flavor to the title change. Plus, this show offered three title changes, something people want to see on pay shows.

Jim Ross may have been guilty of two bloopers (see TV TEMPO) but his call of the world title match was his finest hour ever. You can tell when the matches get better because Ross gives you fewer one-liners. With help from Ross, Magnum T.A. was carried to his best performance on color but I'll comment on that later.

This was the best-lighted NWA show yet and the intro of Flair with the women and the trumpets playing the MASTERPIECE THEATRE theme gave the buildup a classy distinction.

MINUS: Upcut on Michael Hayes' interview audio, no replay on the Luger title win and the show was way too slow in developing early.

Hayes tried every way he could to work the crowd in the opener but 14 minutes was too long. The 28-minute Sting-Reed match was indicative to me that Reed just doesn't have it for an NWA crowd. Sting needs someone with offense to get his act over and Reed had zilch. The two openers needed to be half as long to allow for a longer finale.

The absence of Dennis Condrey after two months of promotion for Midnights-Midnights hurt but not enough to kill the match. Plus, the crowd appeared confused by the ending of Steiner-Rotundo.

As stated last week, the package reviewing the Steamboat-Flair saga was a good idea but didn't come off that well because Ross was forced to rush the live narration. As an alternative, I might have run the match replays early and just prior to match time, run a music piece with lots of slow-motion, showing the two preparing for the event, giving it a ROCKY-type flavor.

The 3-minute music video showcasing the night's performers early was okay and nicely edited but didn't tell much of a story.

Finally, as for Magnum, this is a difficult thing for me to write. I honestly believe Magnum did the very best he is capable of doing last Monday and was certainly acceptable. But I think his best is just not enough for major NWA shows. That's not his fault. He's simply not a trained broadcaster and I think the TBS will be better off with a strong heel or at least a more opinionated voice on the color mike.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE: Match Quality, 3.3; Total Production, 3.7; Crowd Enthusiasm, 4.0; Announcing, 3.5; Overall Excellence of Show, 3.8. **TOTAL RATING:** 18.3. If the early undercard had been stronger, this would have easily surpassed the 19.9 of STARRCADE.

I REMEMBER: Ed Capral (Final of 3 Parts)

Ed Capral had an announcers' dream in the mid-to-late 1960s with The Torres Brothers, who were capable of carrying even the worst team to a decent feud.

Georgia fans still speak in legendary words of the Torreses-Vachons feud from 1966-68. But one key match forced Capral out of his straightforward, newscaster delivery in late 1967 and the memory is a gem.

Butcher (Paul) Vachon and his "brother" Stan had lost a loser-leave-Georgia match to Enrique & Ramon Torres. Not long afterward, a well-disguised masked "Japanese" wrestler, Oki Yama, appeared on BIG TIME WRESTLING to assist the hated El Mongol in his Georgia feuds.

Enrique chose to bring along his protege, a young Bob Armstrong, for a tag match vs. the Mongol-Yama combo. Yama, who began with a series of stumps to "drive away evil spirits," had a shaved chest (unlike the hairy Vachon) and no distinctive North American style.

For 16 minutes, the four battled with a workrate which would make the Midnight Express & Fantastics proud. It was the match in which Armstrong moved into the forefront of Peach State performers.

Capral had a quality that night reminiscent of Al Michaels in the 1980 Olympic hockey finale. He was intensely proud of the efforts of Armstrong and set everyone's hopes for a possible upset.

Suddenly, as Torres went for his patented airplane spin on Yama, the hooded heel reversed the move into a swinging hangman that only one competitor had trademarked.

"Look Leo (Garibaldi)," yelled Capral, "that's the Butcher's favorite hold!" Garibaldi: "Oh, Ed...you don't think..." Capral: "I do and I'm going to get to

the bottom of this when we come back."

After a break in which I'm certain no one headed to the refrigerator, Capral went past the role of investigator with the Yama/Mongol manager, Dandy Jack Crawford. "I want the fans in the studio to hear it. I want the fans in our TV audience to hear it," proclaimed Capral. "This man--Oki Yama--is the BUTCHER VACHON!" The WALL-TV crowd roared so loudly Crawford found it hard to hear his own rejoinder. I'm convinced no one else heard Dandy Jack's defense because the Capral statement reminded me of the night Walter Cronkite rose out of his desk to point at a chart of Watergate conspirators, a highly significant move to viewers accustomed to seeing Uncle Walter behind the desk.

I can imagine reactions across the network like MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR Dan Gibson's the next day: "Steve, Ed was pretty riled up over that thing. I've never seen him be that plain with Dandy Jack before."

No he wasn't. And you knew when Ed spoke that definitively, he meant business. I'm of the belief Capral was so good in his regular delivery, it magnified the impact of his editorial remarks. And I'll tell you something else, he could do it today and be a classic example for the declining crop of announcers in this country. My thoughts about Ed Capral are likened to the old Simon & Garfunkel lyrics, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?" only I'd supplant Ed's name. Boy, do we need him now!

TV TEMPO (Week of Feb. 20-26)

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See PILEDRIVER - Excellent POWERSLAM - Good DRAW - Average RESTHOLD - Fair BOMB - Poor PLUS - Midscale rating.

(FLORIDA) - FLORIDA TITLE: Mike Graham wins DQ over Star Rider Blade when Al Perez runs in to give Graham the "alleycopter" and "breaks Mike's arm" with a chair from the top rope; Steelman d. Bruno; Brett Sawyer d. Dave Heath; Steve Keirn/Scott Hall d. El Diablo/Jim Backlund; Nasty Boys d. Grappler/Cliff Sheats. FEATURES: Randy Roberts introed as PWF president; Jerry Clover opens show. RESTHOLD.

(AWA) - Tommy Jammer d. Chris Curtis; Mike Enos/Manny Fernandez d. Stoney Burke/Red Taylor; Sgt. Slaughter d. Dave Taylor; MAT CLASSIC: Wendi Richter draw with Velvet McIntyre; AWA TAG TITLE: Badd Co. wins DQ over Tom Zenk/Ken Patera when Diamond dropkicks Zenk, forcing Tanaka over the top. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWC) - TNT d. Jason the Terrible, during which Invader I unmasks El Profe as Chicky Starr (who had been barred from the ring) and faces congratulate Invader (Jose Gonzales); Rufus R. Jones d. Mr. Pogo. DRAW.

(CWA) - Dutch Mantel d. Brian Lee; Frankie Lancaster/Jimmy Golden d. Scott Steiner/Wm. Thompson; Master of Pain d. David Johnson; Jerry Lawler wins DQ over Master of Pain when Mantel enters to "stop the match"; The Dreamweaver wins DQ over PY Chu Hi and puts Tojo Yamamoto to sleep; Shogun/Samurai d. Alan Reynolds/Chuck McPherson. PILEDRIVER.

(Continued on Page 7)

The Arn & Tully vs. Michaels & Jannetty match (I think) was the greatest match live I've ever seen (in Tacoma). I have never seen faster and better action. And by the way, the Sting vs. Flair match (25 min.) on the NWA Seattle card was excellent. Flair had a big offense....more than usual.

GLENN FOX
SEATTLE WA

I share your high opinion of the Funk & Briscos and consider that the all-time best feud for continuing quality of matches over a long period of time. Nothing against Bruno but I consider us lucky growing up with Kiniski & Theaz instead of Bruno as champ.

HARRY WHITE
ST. LOUIS MO

I think I can sense a fellow Roddy Piper fan, at least when I read his work. I particularly enjoyed the yearbook and Bill Kunkel's cartoons were a riot!

TERESA DeMARIE
TUCKAHOE NY

(FSB: Thanks, Teresa. Yes, I do enjoy the finely honed craft of Mr. Piper and I only hope he gets better personal treatment this time around by the Titan folks, none of whom wished him well when he last retired.)

I loved the Royal rumble. Heels fought heels, faces fought faces, faces and heels teamed up, and the Demos starting it off was a stroke of genius....might have been the best battle royal I've ever seen.

BILL KUNKEL
WOODHAVEN NY

I think the Hiro Matsuda idea is a bad one. In his day, Hiro was one heck of a wrestler but, as a manager, he just doesn't get it. I don't think it was necessary at all for Flair & Windham to even have a manager. Matsuda doesn't add anything. He only distracts from Flair.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

Hiro is certainly not my hero. Pay him off, George, and let him stay home. If you want him around to train young wrestlers, fine...but please give Ric & Barry some respect.

JACK CLARK
THOMASVILLE GA

Just watched TBS---Hiro Matsuda?! God help us. The Yamasaki Corporation could at least spring for some decent threads for their "front" man.

TIM THOMASTON
TOLEDO OH

At the moment both CHALLENGE and SUPERSTARS have disappeared from our screens but will supposedly return after the ratings break. I look forward to reading about the Titan-Turner war as it seems it could be an extremely interesting time in the next few months.

RAYMOND JENNINGS
WOODY POINT, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

As a whole, the MAIN EVENT, in my opinion, was a complete BOMB. I did like the argument and thought Randy did an excellent job in the first-aid room. However, maybe I was expecting too much. A lot of the people I talked to (about 15, and only 3 were "smart") were upset. Most were expecting an in-ring attack to pop the crowd and not some backroom punchup.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

So Turner let Tony Schiavone get away? I hope this doesn't start a bad trend but why wouldn't they go for somebody like Lance Russell, who can make even a squash show interesting?

MARY STUART
ANNAPOLIS MD

(FSB: Mary, hopefully, you've read the SIDELIGHTS column. TBS indeed made an outstanding choice in the talented Mr. Russell.)

YOU SAID IT! appears monthly in MATWATCH. Letters to: YOU SAID IT!, MATWATCH, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830.

CABLE RATINGS RAP (Week of Feb. 18-20)

	Rating	Share
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 2/20)	3.6	5.3
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 2/19)	3.3	8.2
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 2/19)	2.9	5.6
NWA CLASH REPEAT (TBS 2/19)	2.6	5.9
NWA WORLD CH. WSTLG (TBS 2/18)	2.6	4.5
NWA CH. WRESTLING (TBS 2/18)	0.8	5.9

(ANALYSIS: The WWF 3-hour special did succeed in pumping up the numbers but how much of that may have blunted CHI-TOWN buy-ins is open to question. NWA MAIN EVENT led the TBS shows for the fourth straight week. The TBS a.m. show's move to 7:05 (ET) is reflected in its sharp drop. A combined total of 8.3 million viewers watched both showings of CLASH V. As for WCW, it increased the numbers of its U.S. OLYMPIC GOLD lead-in by 137%.)

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We have a tremendous list this month, so I hope you find some bargains or trades:

TAPES

RICKY SHORT, Rt. 2, Box 297, Gretna VA, is looking for Atlantic Coast, K.C. (1988-present), EWA, or old indies of Florida or the Northeast.

BOB SAYDLOWSKI JR., 246 Pomeroy Ave., Pittsfield MA 01201-6460, has a list of over 550 videos available.

BRIAN TRAMEL, 1806 Self Circle, Apt. B, Jonesboro AR 72401, publishes TAPE UPDATE with a list of his many available videos. Write him for details.

BULLETINS

BETWEEN THE ROPES, a new monthly published by Adam Horowitz. Cost: \$1.00. Send to Adam at 336 Harbor Dr., Long Beach NY 11561.

ARENA REPORT, Ron Lemieux's fine around-the-nation results publication. It's out every 2 weeks for 50 cents an issue. Send to Ron at 285 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon CT 06066.

HAT WEEKLY, a concise promotional review by Chris Siggia. 75 cents an issue. Send to Chris at 1638 W. 32nd St., Erie PA 16508.

RINGSIDE REFLECTOR, a first-rate forum for fans to voice views. Subscription inquiries to J.D. McKay Jr., Rt. 2, Box 291, Louisville MS 33339.

PRO WRESTLING TORCH, Wade Keller's comprehensive view of the wrestling scene. Per issue: \$1.25. Send to Wade at P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

PRO WRESTLING DIGEST, my good friend Dennis Brent's magazine that's as entertaining as you'll find. Subscription: \$24.95 a year. Send to PWD, P.O. Box 796488, Dallas TX 75379-6488.

WRESTLING REPORT, Greg Oliver's impressive Canadian bulletin. Six issues for \$5. Orders to Greg at 15 Penrose Ave., Kitchener, ONT N2A 1E9.

SQUARED CIRCLE, Jammie Ward's bulletin which is running an interesting yearly history of Crockett Promotions. Subscription inquiries to Jammie at 2824 Quaint St., Secane PA 19018.

THE WRESTLING OBSERVER, The New York Times of wrestling publications by our colleague Dave Meltzer. Cost: \$5 per 4-issue set. Send to Dave at P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

(NOTE: We'll run the full list of bulletins 3 times a year and in other months, any new ones which develop.)

MEMORABILIA

ERIC CAIDIN of the HOLLYWOOD BOOK & POSTER CO., 1706 N. Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood CA 90028, has a large collection of programs, photos and magazines from the late 1960s to 1970s.

JIM MELBY, 1018 E. Rose Ave., St. Paul MN 55106, has a great collection of '60s era wrestling films on tape. Cost: \$49.95 for any 2 shows. Send to Jim for a list and he's also interested in trading for any pre-1965 material.

WRESTLERS NEEDED

AMERICAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION wants licensed pro wrestlers to work full and part time in the Virginia-Carolina area. For interview, call (804) 539-5740 after 5 p.m. and ask for Ron. Fully confidential.

WRESTLING INVITATIONAL

The International Wrestling Alliance, Inc., is sponsoring a five-day PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING INVITATIONAL series of cards and events in Denver July 12-16. For more info, write IWA, Inc., 1441 W. Cedar Ave., Unit "C", Denver CO 80223.

RING FOR SALE

MIKE SAMPLES, 1312 Arroyo Dr., Frankfort KY, has a wrestling ring in excellent condition for sale. Price: \$1,800 ready to use.

MATWATCH REMINDERS

GIFT PACKAGE: Our regular deal on gift orders is always in effect. But I'm offering a special 2-issue gift package of the STEAMBOAT TITLE CHANGE issue and the April 3-9 SUPER SUNDAY edition. For \$2.00, we will send those two issues to the person of your choice and add an extra issue onto your subscription.

Also, BACK ISSUES are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for any four. For either offer, send to STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830.

RATING RAP: WEF delivered a drew a combined 10.3 for its syndicated offerings on 241 stations for the week ending Feb. 5.

(PWTW) - WWC, Rufus R. Jones d. Bobby Jagers; WCCW, Brickhouse Brown-Iceman Parsons saga; WWF, WMS Update; CWF, Terry Gordy d. Russian Assassin; CWA, Bill Dundee video; AWA, Larry Zbyszko wins AWA title in battle royal; MARS WRESTLER OF WEEK: Zbyszko. POWERSLAM.

(SCW) - Mr. Wrestling II/Ranger Ross d. Chance Myers/Steve Bennett; Joel Deaton d. Russell Wiggins; Blue Knight d. Invader I; John Michaels d. Randall Williams; Brad Armstrong wins DQ over Ron Starr when Tommy Rich interferes; FEATURES: Knight challenges Deaton; David Sammartino introduced as heel. BOMB-PLUS.

(WCCW) - Brickhouse Brown d. Mickey Finn; Beauty & the Beast d. Jim Ward/Tony Falk; Chris Adams wins DQ over Cactus Jack Manson when B&B run in; Gary Young d. Eric Embry in no DQ loser-leave WCCW match when Manson hits Embry with loaded boot off top rope. DRAW.

(CWF) - USA TITLE: Tennessee Stud (Ron Fuller) wins DQ over Tony Anthony to retain belt when Jerry Stubbs runs in; Doug Furnas/Butch Cassidy d. Alan Martin/Masked Midget; Brad Anderson d. Bo Elliot; Rich Cousins d. The Count/Kim Dawson; Wendell Cooley d. Gene Spurlock. REPLAYS: Terry Gordy-Black Bart brawl; Hunters win squash; Riches vs. Chono/Davis brawl. BOMB-PLUS...the Fuller-Anthony match was the same old ending of every Anthony or Stubbs match for two years.

(PORTLAND) - Nord the Barbarian d. Mike Golden; Grappler d. Scott Peterson when Nord runs in; Col. DeBeers d. Carl Stiles when heel ref Joey Jackson quick counts; LUMBERJACK STRAP MATCH: Beetlejuice d. Al Madril. POWERSLAM...this is getting to be an interesting show again.

(PCCW) - Ole Olson/The Riotmaker d. Kerry Tiki Khan/Buddy Wayne; Mike Miller d. Moondog Moretti; PCCW TITLE: Rip Oliver d. Tiger Chung Lee to regain belt. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WEF) - [SUPERSTARS]: Curt Hennig wins countout over Terry Taylor when Brooklyn Brawler pulls Taylor out and the two scrap; Anabolic Warrior d. Dusty Wolfe; Ronnie Garvin d. Iron Mike Sharpe; HANDICAP MATCH: Andre the Giant d. Jim Powers & Tito Santana; Greg Valentine d. Omar Atlas; Hercules Hernandez d. Lou Fabiano; Rougeaus win squash. FEATURES: Bro. Love w. Demolition; Ted DiBiase (in Dracula cape) sees "million dollar belt" for first time. POWERSLAM.

[CHALLENGE]: Pre-empted in my area for GATEWAY TO MIND POWER.

[SPOTLIGHT]: Bad News Brown d. Koko B. Ware; Jim Neidhart wins DQ over Honky Tonk Man when Valentine runs in; Squash winners: Dino Bravo, Anabolic, Tully & Arn. FEATURES: Bro. Love w. Rick Rude/Bobby Heenan; Hogan/Savage "sides of the story." RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: CHI-TOWN REPLAYS ...Edited clips of Flair-Steambat, Midnight Express/Cornette vs.

Victory/Rose; finish of Luger-Mindham; complete Steiner-Rotundo TV title match; STUDIO: JYD/Michael Hayes d. Nightmare/El Negro; Eddie Gilbert d. Rick Conners; Danny Spivey d. Tom Pitner; Other winners: Butch Reed, Dick Murdoch, Kendall Windham, Breakdance Young. INTERVIEWS: Eddie brings Missy Hyatt out and indicates her "Gucci bag" will now be with her; Iron Sheik introduced. DRAW-PLUS...for replays.

[VCR THEATRE]: Ron Simmons/JYD d. Gladiators; Nightmare/Russian Assassin Victory d. Keith Hart/Bill Holiday; Young/Steve Casey d. Cody Star/Chris Powers; Other winners: Kevin Sullivan/Spivey, Reed, Michael Hayes. BOMB-PLUS...back to the all-squashers.

[MAIN EVENT]: Road Warriors d. Varsity Club; Butch Reed d. Dustin Rhodes; SST d. Julio Barrera/Tony Soper; CHI-TOWN HIGHLIGHTS. DRAWP-PLUS...for the Jim & Paul E. Show, in particular.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Michael Hayes d. Robbie Idol; Fantastics d. Terminators; Other winners: Sullivan/Williams, Russian A's, Ivan/JYD, Casey. BOMB. [WORLD WIDE]: Fantastics d. Gary Royal/George South; Murdoch d. Terminator Venasey; Sting d. Mike Thor; Other winners: JYD/Ivan, Hayes/Casey. BOMB-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Jerry Lawler, CWA: "See, I told you that kind of stuff Vince McMahon's been doing up in New York wasn't wrestling." 2. OLD SPICE announcer, NWA: "Even Rick Steiner's brand of action can't scare away notorious body odor." 3. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "Talk about a piece of musical trash. I heard a thing called STAND BACK a year ago." 4. Marc Lowrance/Frank Dusek, WCCW: FD, "I got a feeling I'm not gonna like this guy (Beauty)." ML, "Yeah, but you're lucky. He likes you." 5. Jim Ross & Kevin Sullivan, TBS: KS, "Thanks for the nice things you said about me." JR, "Did you hear what I said about Jim Jones?" KS, "Yeah, come over to my house and I'll give you some Kool-Aid." 6. Ross, NME: "Don't you care about Randy Rose? He may be driving a cab now for all you know." 7. Paul E. Dangerously, NME: "Randy Rose is an option and his stock just went down." 8. Dangerously, CHI-TOWN: "They call it the Bobby Flu, Stan Sickness & Cornetteitis and we're the doctors to deal with it." 9. Magnum T.A., CHI-TOWN: "That cover was like he was laying down on his bed." 10. Vince McMahon, WWF: "We're in the land of catcus, Jesse, which reminds me of you because you're a pain in everyone's side." 11. Smash, WWF: "We have 3 PhDs: teethkicking, smashing heads and breaking bones." 12. David Sammartino, SCW: "There are 3 things you can't hide from: the IRS, death itself and David Sammartino. 13. Steve Casey, NWA: "Five minutes' work and 55 minutes of smoking and bragging about how bad you are just don't cut it." 14. Iron Sheik, NWA: "Iron Sheik--AWA, NWA, W--whatever." 15. Ross/Magnum, TBS: JR, "She (Missy Hyatt) has the two biggest blue eyes in wrestling." TA, "That could distract me." 16. Lee Marshall, AWA: "If I keep calling Enos 'Mean,' he's gonna have me for lunch." 17. Diamond D. Page, FCW: "Elvis may turn up at THE HOMECOMING."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Sullivan, TBS, on Steve Casey: "He's a male bimbo." 2. Magnum T.A., CHI-TOWN: "I don't think he (Paul E.) could have broken an egg with that punch."

IGNORANCE REMARK OF THE WEEK - Frank Dusek, WCCW: "The SST are gone. I don't know where they are or what happened to them."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Sullivan, TBS: "What language do those 2 (Young & Casey) geniuses speak?"

INSIDE INFO OF THE WEEK - Ross, TBS, for giving Dick Murdoch's address as Route 2, Canyon TX.

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, for Flair-Steamboat match. 2. TBS, for Flair being kissed by wife at CHI-TOWN. 3. TBS, for CHI-TOWN shot of Brad Muster yelling to ref Sting being choked. 4. SCW, shot of Nick Busich being hanged. 5. TBS, closeup of fans thumbing down Young's breakdance. 6. WCCW, shot of Manson drinking champagne from boot.

BEST PROMO - TBS, for THE WRESTLING HOTLINE spot in which Jim Cornette says "even Paul E. Dangerously knows how to call 1-900-909-9900" while a ringside shot of Paul E. punching phone at ringside appears.

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - Brett Sawyer, FCW, now called "The Bubble gum kid."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Sullivan, "Katie bar the door, goodnight Irene." 2. Ross, CHI-TOWN: "...cut the tension with a knife."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - TBS, upcut of audio on Michael Hayes at CHI-TOWN and failure to have replay of Luger pin.

BLOOPER AWARD - Ross, CHI-TOWN, for saying Flair-Steamboat Meadowlands match was in 1983, instead of May 1984; and for saying Dennis Brent was from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED.

BOO AWARD - Vince McMahon & Jesse Ventura, WEF, for spending the first 2 minutes of the Garvin-Sharpe match discussing other angles without even naming the in-ring competitors.

TUBE TALK

My biggest fault with the TBS show Saturday night is that it sorely needed a post-match interview with Flair inserted....How long has it been since a weekend with no Cornette or Dangerously interviews on any TBS or syndie show? Mark down last weekend....Charlie Platt is doing everything he can to keep things in order but that CWF show was plainly awful Saturday.....Dusty introduced the PWF TOP 10 on the FLORIDA show and I'll .

bet you'll never guess who was No. 1.

Kevin Sullivan did a respectable job as color commentator on VCR THEATRE and with added work, may do well....DiBiase made a great Count Dracula in his WEF angle Saturday....David Sammartino did an adequate heel interview on SCW....Joe Pedicino was doing the NWA towns lineup voiceovers Saturday.

Lance Russell did appear Saturday on CWA. Jim Herd had told me Lance would not do this week's tapings in Macon and Columbia if Jarrett allowed him to work out his notice....I'd still like to get a results report on the WMC live show on Saturdays. Call (205) 826-7522 if you can do it and I'll work out an arrangement....I'm also looking to trade with anyone for episodes of the old cop shows, HIGHWAY PATROL or M SQUAD. Till next week, God bless! FSB

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